Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

I.   The Double Patenting Rejection Should Be Withdrawn

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 46 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 to 46 of co-pending application serial no. 09/428,702. The Examiner also rejected claims 1 to 46 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over co-pending application Serial No. 09/428,702, application Serial No. 09/428,702 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,105 to Conklin, or application Serial No. 09/428,702 in view of Conklin and U.S. Patent No. 6,424,979 to Livingston et al. On pages 2 to 25 of the Office Action, the Examiner explained the basis for the double patenting and obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed along with this Amendment which is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). Since the claims in these two applications are not identical to each other, the double patenting rejections should be withdrawn in light of the Terminal Disclaimer.

II.   The Objection To the Claims Should Be Withdrawn

The Examiner objected to claim 1 because it recited "automatedly." The claim has been revised to recite "automatically." Since this claim no longer contains the objected to language, the objection to claim 1 should be withdrawn.

III.   The Claims Are Novel over Conklin

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated

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by U.S. Patent No. 6,336,105 to Conklin et al. The Examiner believed Conklin to teach a host computer in communication with enterprises over a network with this host computer automatically collecting and analyzing information about the items from multiple enterprise databases. The Examiner stated that Conklin does not specifically state that the computer is a host computer but argued that the host computer is well known in the art as a computer that provides services to others linked to it by a network.

A brief description of the invention is believed to be warranted and should illustrate the patentable features of the invention. In the Background section of the application, a fairly comprehensive description was provided for on-line auctions, describing both person-to-person format auctions, merchant-to-person auctions, and business-to-business auctions. On page three of the application, a number of patents were cited which describe examples of on-line or network-based auction sites or services. The typical manner in which a shopper accesses and uses an action site was also described in the Background and highlighted the difficulty in monitoring and tracking information across the multiple auction sites. For instance, tracking, comparing bids, comparing product description, and determining availability across the multiple auction sites was described as a time consuming and inefficient process.

In contrast to the use of conventional auction sites, the systems and methods according to the invention allow for the aggregation of auction data from multiple enterprises. Thus, through one system, such as one web site, a shopper can observe, actively monitor, and participate in multiple, concurrent, and different on-line auctions. Another benefit of such a system is that the user minimizes the need for the user to learn how to use and exercise the different types of user interfaces at the different available on-line auction

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sites. This single system allows the user to search, such as by category and/or keyword, for items of interest across the multiple enterprises. The single system enables users to obtain automatic updates of auction information on a precisely scheduled, periodic basis, or on-demand in response to a shopper request. The system can also automatically notify shoppers when they are being outbid on items or when a previously identified item of interest is being offered at an auction site. The system can also offer an item watch capability in which a shopper is automatically informed when a particular item of interest at an auction site comes up for auction. The system offers a market watch capability in which the shopper can request that a keyword and/or category search be saved, the system automatically updates the search at periodic intervals, and the system notifies the shopper of any new items being offered by the monitored auction sites. Again, these features of the system allow a user to manage information that has been gathered from multiple enterprises, such as multiple auction sites on the Internet each having their own enterprise database.

Conklin fails to disclose or suggest the systems and methods for aggregating information from multiple enterprises. The portions of Conklin cited by the Examiner relate generally to an e-commerce site in which a seller can purchase goods from one or more sellers. The examples in Figures 2(a) and 2(b) of Conklin show interaction between a shopper and a seller of goods. The mall example shown in Figure 2(b) illustrates interaction between participants or shoppers 8a and the enterprise 24. Another portion of Conklin in column 13 describes a Priceline.com system described in U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207. This description, however, is of a conventional type auction site.

In contrast to the description within Conklin, the claimed systems and methods relate to having multiple enterprises each of which can interact directly with a shopper and having

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a host automatically collect and analyze information from these <u>multiple</u> enterprises. The Priceline.com description in Conklin is of a single auction site and thus does not suggest a system for gathering data from multiple auction sites. The examples given in Figures 2(a) and 2(b) are of conventional e-commerce sites, which may incorporate a "mall" of different shops, and also do not suggest a system that automatically collects and analyzes information from multiple enterprises. The rejection of claim 1 is therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and have been revised to specify in more easily understood language the subject matter of the invention. For instance, the use of the word "said" has been replaced with the more commonly used term of "the." Also, claim 1 states that each enterprise is for "maintaining a separate exchange" and has "an enterprise database for storing information about items available through each separate exchange." Claim 1 also states that shoppers "interact directly with each separate exchange to obtain the information about the items." It should now be clear from the claims that each of the multiple enterprises independently offers items to shoppers, each enterprise has an enterprise database, the host automatically collects and analyzes the information from the multiple enterprises, and the host provides "a host graphical interface through which the shoppers can view, over the network, the information stored in the host database." Since Conklin does not disclose or suggest these features of the invention, the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Conklin should now be withdrawn.

IV.   <u>Claims 3 to 46 are not rendered obvious by any combination of Conklin, Livingston, and Fisher.</u>

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The Examiner rejected claims 3 to 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Conklin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,979 to Livingston et al. The Examiner then rejected claims 11 to 46 under § 103 as being unpatentable over Conklin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,896 to Fisher.

As mentioned above, Conklin does not suggest a host which gathers information from multiple enterprises, such as multiple auction sites, and presents a single user interface by which a shopper can interact with these multiple enterprises. The references to Livingston and Fisher also fail to disclose or suggest any type of system or method which gathers information from multiple enterprises. Fisher relates to a system and method for conducting a multi-person interactive auction. The systems and methods described in Fisher relate to a single enterprise and do not suggest any type of system or method by which the shoppers can interact with multiple auction sites. The Livingston patent is even more removed from the subject matter of the claimed invention in that it relates to a system by which different users can create customized views of a given set of information. Livingston describes how a profile of a user can indicate the level of detail and timeframe of information to be obtained from a portal and how information within the portal is gathered and assembled according to that profile. Livingston does not describe nor does it suggest the collecting, analyzing, and rendering of information obtained from multiple enterprises through a single user interface. Since neither Fisher nor Livingston suggests the deficiencies of Conklin, any combination of Conklin with Livingston and Fisher would still fail to suggest the subject matter of the claimed invention. The rejections of claims 2 to 46 are therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

VI.   Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, claims 1 to 46 are in condition for allowance. If the

Examiner intends to issue anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number in

order to resolve any remaining issues.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff L. Sutcliffe
Reg. No. 36,348

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MARKED UP COPY OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the first paragraph on page 1 and replace it with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/428,702, entitled "A System For Aggregating Information From Enterprises Offering Items For Exchange Over A Communication Network," filed October 27, 1999. This application also claims the benefit of co-pending U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/154,667, entitled "Systems and Method for Identifying and Monitoring Auctions Across Multiple On-line Auction Sites," filed September 16, 1999. The disclosures of both of the above cited applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please delete the first paragraph of the Summary of the Invention on page 4 and replace it with the following paragraph:

To address the disadvantages and inefficiencies of the prior art, one embodiment[,] of the invention is a network-based system which provides a uniform graphical user interface that enables a user to observe, actively monitor and participate in multiple, concurrent and different on-line auctions, from one central place at one time. _Such a system minimizes the need for the user, as a shopper, to learn how to use and exercise the different types of user interfaces at each of the different available on-line auction sites.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 11 and replace it with the following

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paragraph:

The host computer 104 executes a plurality of software modules [114-122] 114, 116,
118, 120, and 122. The software modules [114-122] 114, 116, 118, 120, and 122
communicate with each other by way of an operating system 124. Any number of multi-
tasking operating systems, such as UNIX® or Windows/NT® can be employed as the
operating system 124. Illustratively, the host computer 104 executes a monitor 114, a
notifier 116, a viewer 118, a search engine 120, and a site access facilitator 122. The
modules [114-122] 114, 116, 118, 120, and 122 are first briefly described, and then each
module is described in further detail below.

Please delete the last paragraph on page 12 which continues to page 13 and replace it
with the following paragraph:

In operation, the database 106 communicates with the CPU 104 by way of the I/O
port 208. The CPU 200 controls the operation of the host computer 104. The display device
202 displays information to a system administrator/programmer. The input device 204,
which is by way of example a keyboard and mouse, enables the system administrator to
direct the operation of the host computer 104. The network interface 206 enables
communication between the host computer 104 and the shopper access devices 108a-108d
and the enterprise sites 112a-112d, all by way of the network 110. The memory 210 stores
the application programs 214 and the operating system software 218 for execution by the
host computer 104. The memory 210 also stores data 216 used by the application programs
214 and the operating system software 218.

Please delete the last full paragraph on page 13 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Although the system 102 is illustratively depicted with a single host computer 104, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the system operation may alternatively be distributed over a plurality of host computers, with the execution of the application programs 214 also being distributed over the plurality of host computers. Each of the software modules [114-122]114, 116, 118, 120, and 122 will now be discussed in detail.

Please delete the last full paragraph on page 14 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Update scheduling based upon auction specific circumstances varies based upon the information gathered at a particular auction site. For example, the closing time for the bidding associated with the sale of a particular item is unique to that item. Information associated with bid and final sale statistics for an item may only be available at the auction site for a limited time after the closing time for the item. Thus, the monitor 114[,] identifies the closing time for particular items during an initial scan of the auction site[,] and then schedules a precisely timed scan of that same auction site to gather the closing time statistics associated with the particular items. For efficiency, auction site scans whether regularly scheduled, based upon specific anticipated events (such as an auction closing time), or shopper initiated, are all used to gather other information that happens to be available.

Please delete the last full paragraph on page 16 and replace it with the following paragraph:

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As indicated at 416, subsequent to organizing the data types into database tables and records, the monitor 114 determines whether new database records need to be created or whether existing database records need to be updated. If the monitor 114 detects a new item listed for exchange at one of the auction sites, then as shown at 418, it creates a new record for the item in the database 106. Alternatively, if a record already exists for the items, then as shown at 420, the monitor 114 updates the auction information for the existing record. As shown at 422 [and 424], prior to storing the updated auction information in the database 106 at 424, the monitor 114 may also calculate additional statistical information, such as historical pricing information for items offered for purchase at the auction site.

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 16 which continues on page 17 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The data extraction and processing method illustrated by steps [406-414] 406, 408, 410, 412, and 414 is particularly insensitive to the manner in which auction sites post information. As discussed above, the monitor 114 strips away format information from the textual content. In this way, the monitor 114 operates independently of formatting and other site aesthetics, such as color schemes. This insensitivity enables the illustrative system 102, to readily adapt to changes in auction site formatting.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 18 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The viewer 118 executes on the host computer 104 to provide a graphical user interface for the system 102. In the illustrative embodiment, the viewer 118 provides a

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system Web site, an example of which is located at address [[] www.biddersedge.com[]]. At

the system Web site, the viewer provides a plurality of Web pages that enable a shopper to

monitor and participate in auction activity occurring at a plurality of auction sites. The

viewer 118 includes foreground process software that detects signals from the shopper access

devices 108a-108d. Preferably, a shopper enters requests at a shopper access device 108a-

108d by way of a mouse or keypad. The viewer 118 detects the request and responds by

displaying the requested information.

Please delete the second full paragraph on page 19 and replace it with the following

paragraph:

In the illustrative flow diagram 500, a shopper enters the system 102 by way of the

Home page 600 depicted in FIGURE 6. The Home page 600 includes a page navigation

menu bar 602, which highlights the Home page menu button entry 604 to indicate that the

shopper is currently viewing the Home page 600. The other buttons [606-616] 606, 608,

610, 612, 614 and 616 on the navigation menu bar 602, enable a shopper to navigate to other

GUI pages generated by the viewer 118. By way of example, the button 606 signals the

viewer 118 to present the Sign In/Sign Out page 1200 of FIGURE 12. The button 608

signals the viewer 118 to present the Categories page 1100 of FIGURE 11. The button 610

signals the viewer 118 to present the My Auctions^{SM} page 800 of FIGURE 8. The button

612 signals the viewer 118 to present the Deal Watch^{SM} page 900 of FIGURE 9. The button

614 signals the viewer 118 to present the Personalize page 1000 of FIGURE 10, and the

button [606] 616 signals the viewer to present a Help page (not shown).

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 19 which continues to page 20 and replace it with the following paragraph:

A feature of the illustrative system 102 is that it enables shoppers to search for items in the database 106 based on categories, keywords and any combination of the two. In the illustrative flowchart 500, a shopper decides at 502 whether to search for an item by categories. To facilitate such a search, the Home page 600 includes a categories list 626. The categories list 626 displays high-level categories of items contained in the database 102. In response to a shopper selecting a high-level category 626 in step 504, the system 102 determines in step 506 whether any subcategories of the selected category include further subcategories. If such is the case, the viewer 118, in step 508, displays the subcategories for the selected category. Additionally, the system 102 enables the shopper to further narrow their search by selecting one of the displayed subcategories. As indicated at 506 and 510, if no further subcategories exist, the viewer 118 displays the search results by way of [the] a Search Results page 700 of FIGURE 7.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 20 and replace it with the following paragraph:

As indicated at 512, the search engine 120 also enables shoppers to limit an item search by keyword. To facilitate this feature, the Home page 600 provides "Find It" interfaces 618 and 620. The "Find It" interfaces 618 and 620 have associated text entry locations 622 and 624, respectively, for entering keyword queries. Should a shopper decide to perform a keyword search in step [514] 512, the shopper enters the keywords in step 514 in either of fields 622 or 624. As indicated at 516, the search engine 120 also enables

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shoppers to limit the type of keyword search performed. To facilitate this feature, the page 600 includes a pull-down menu bar 628. As indicated in step 518, using the menu bar 628, a shopper can direct the search engine 120 to search the database 106 based on all of the words in the field 628, or alternately, based on any of the words in the field 628. Additionally, the shopper can limit the search to the "+/- Style" with regard to the words in the field 628. A "+" character preceding a keyword narrows the search to items containing at least one instance of the keyword. A "-" character narrows the search to items not having any occurrences of the keyword. As indicated at 520, the search engine 120 further enables shoppers to limit a search by auction site. As shown at step 522, should a shopper decide to so limit a search, the shopper uses [the] a pull-down menu 630 to restrict the keyword search to items at one of the supported auction sites, or alternatively, to items at any of the supported auction sites, by default.

Please delete the second full paragraph on page 21 and replace it with the following paragraph:

A further feature of the illustrative embodiment is that the viewer provides a graphical display of the categories to which a shopper's keyword search applies. By way of example, in response to a shopper selecting a category from the category list 626, the viewer 118 displays any available subcategories. Similarly, in response to a shopper selecting a displayed subcategory, the viewer 118 displays any available subcategories of the selected subcategories. If a shopper conducts a keyword search, the specified search criteria only applies to the categories or sub-categories displayed on the current GUI page by the viewer. This feature aids the shopper in visually restricting searches to particular "branches, or

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leaves" of a category hierarchy tree (displayed in the categories list 626), while further restricting how the search engine interprets the keyword search text. As discussed above with respect to step 510, when no more subcategories are available, the viewer 118 navigates to the Search Results page 700 and displays the search results in [the] a search results section 724.

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 21 which continues to page 22 and replace it with the following paragraph:

As illustrated at 526, a shopper initiates a search by actuating (clicking) one of the "Find It" buttons 618 or 620. As shown at 510, actuating a "Find It" button 618 or 620 causes the viewer 118 to display the results returned from the search engine 120. FIGURE 7 shows an illustrative Search Results page 700 generated by the viewer 118, for displaying search results returned from the search engine 120.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 22 and replace it with the following paragraph:

As illustrated in FIGURE 5B and as discussed below with respect to FIGURES 7 – 12, the system 102 provides shoppers with a number of features by way of the Results page 700. By way of example, as illustratively depicted at 534 in FIGURE 5B and at 724 in FIGURE 7, a shopper can select the type of auctions to be included in a search. More specifically, the system 102 enables shoppers to select whether they want to participate in person-to-person auctions, merchant-to-person auctions or both. The system 102 defaults to

including both. If a shopper decides to select an auction type, then the shopper performs the auction selection (step 526) by selecting one of the radio buttons 726a-726c.

Please delete the second full paragraph on page 22 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Another feature of the system 102, illustrated at 538 in FIGURE 5B and at 728 in FIGURE 7, is that a shopper can narrow a search by matching category from the Search Results page 700. If, as indicated in step 540, a shopper chooses to narrow the search by category, the shopper selects one of the match categories 728 displayed in the matching categories field 730. By selecting one of the matching categories, the displayed search results will be restricted to those items falling within the selected matching category 728.

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 22 which continues to page 23 and replace it with the following paragraph:

As shown in FIGURE 7, [the] a Search Results section 702 of the page 700 includes a Current Auctions field 704. The Current Auctions field 704 displays items returned by the search engine 120, along with the auction sites at which the items can be found. The Search Results section 702, also includes an Approx. Bid field 706, a Close field 708, a Past Prices field 710, and a Tools field 712. The Approx. Bid field 706 displays the most up to date information with regard to the current bid on the item. The Close field 708 provides the bid closing time and date. The Past Prices field 720, as in the case of fields 810a and 810b of FIGURE 8, provides historical pricing information if available.

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Please delete the first full paragraph on page 23 and replace it with the following paragraph:

An additional feature of the system 102 illustrated at 542 in FIGURE 5B and at 714 in FIGURE 7, is that a shipper can choose whether to include items listed in the search results field 702 in [the] a My Auctions^{SM} list 802 of the My Auctions^{SM} page 800. The search engine 120 periodically updates auction information for items so listed. In this way, the system 102 enables shoppers to compare prices for the same item being offered at different auctions. To store an item in the My Auctions^{SM} list (step 544), the shopper actuates the button 714.

Please delete the second full paragraph on page 23 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Another feature of the system 102, illustrated at 546 and at 548 in FIGURE 5B and at 716 in FIGURE 7, is that shopper can choose whether to include items listed in the search results field 702 in [the] an Item Watch^{SM} section 908 of the Deal Watch^{SM} page 900 of FIGURE 9. The search engine 120 periodically searches the auction sites 112a-112d to determine the availability of items placed in the Deal Watch^{SM} list. According to the illustrative Deal Watch^{SM} feature, the monitor 114 only signals a shopper that a Deal Watch^{SM} occurs if the monitor 114 locates an exact match for the listed item. Thus, Deal Watch^{SM} related searching is less time consuming than the searching associated with the Market Watch^{SM} feature, and therefore can be performed more frequently.

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Please delete the third partial paragraph on page 23 which continues to page 24 and replace it with the following paragraph:

According to the illustrative embodiment, the buttons 714 and 716 signal the viewer 120 to display an updated Search Results page 700 to the shopper. However, if the shopper wishes to navigate, for example to the My Auctions[SM] page 800, the shopper clicks on [the] a hyperlink field 718. Similarly, to signal the viewer 120 to navigate to the Item Watch[SM] list 908 in the Deal Watch[SM] page 900, the shopper clicks on [the] a hyperlink field 720. Moreover, shoppers can signal the viewer to navigate to other GUI display pages by actuating one of the buttons in the navigation tool bar 602 or by actuating one of the hyperlink fields in [the] a footer section 603.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 24 and replace it with the following paragraph:

As shown in FIGURE 5B at 528, the system 102 also enables shoppers to decide whether to store a particular search strategy. As shown at 530, if a shopper decides to store a search strategy, the shopper actuates [the] a Market Watch[SM] button 722. In response to activation of the Market Watch[SM] button 722, as indicated at 532, the viewer 118 hyperlinks the shopper to the Deal Watch[SM] page 900, and the search engine 120 periodically repeats the search using the stored search criteria. In response to new items falling within the scope of the stored search criteria, the notifier 116 signals the shopper.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 25 and replace it with the following paragraph:

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FIGURE 8 shows an illustrative My Auctions[SM] page generated by the viewer 118 for displaying the current auction status of all items added to the Auction Watch[SM] item list for example, by way of the button 714 of FIGURE 7. As shown in FIGURE 8, the Auction Watch[SM] page 800, includes [a] the navigation menu bar 602 and [a] the footer hyperlink field 603 for enabling a shopper to navigate between available GUI pages. The page 800 also includes keyword search text fields 622 and 624, "Find It" search initiation buttons 618 and 620, search narrowing menus 628 and 630, and a category list 626. The page 800, further includes [a] the My Auctions[SM] section 802.

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 25 which continues to page 26 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The My Auctions[SM] section 802 also includes two buttons 814 and 816. The button 814 enables a shopper to remove items from the My Auctions[SM] page 800. The button 816 enables a shopper to add an item, displayed in the My Auctions[SM] section 802, to the Item Watch[SM] section [906] 902 of the Deal Watch[SM] page 900 shown in FIGURE 9. The My Auctions[SM] page 800 also includes an update button 818. Actuating the update button 818 signals the monitor 114 to update the auction information with regard to the items listed in the My Auctions[SM] section 802.

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 26 which continues to page 27 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The system 102 enables the shopper to initiate participation in an auction for any of the items listed on the My Auctions[SM] list. The system 102 accomplishes this by providing

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hyperlinks to the auction sites offering the listed items for purchase. A shopper initiates the hyperlink by clicking on a listed item. In response to a shopper activating the hyperlink for a given item as determined at step 550 in FIGURE 5B, the site access facilitator 122 establishes a connection across the network 110 at step 552 between the shopper and the auction site associated with the item. The shopper places a bid on the item according to the procedures dictated by the auction site, which typically include registering a user name or other identifier with the auction site that is unique to the shopper. As mentioned above, from the My Auctions^{SM} list 802, the system 102 enables shoppers to enter auction site registration identification names as account information for each particular item in the list. Once the account information is entered by the shopper for the items on which the shopper has placed bids, the account information is stored in the database 106, and the system 102 uses the account information to track the status of the shopper's bids at the auction sites. As also previously mentioned, the system 102 reports the status of the shopper's bids on the My Auctions^{SM} page 800 and optionally, automatically sends the shopper a notification by way of electronic mail, Internet messaging, pager, facsimile, digital telephone or other computer initiated communication method. According to the illustrative embodiment, the notification provides the shopper with the number of items available that fall within the scope of the Market Watch^{SM} search parameters. When the shopper responds to the notification, the system 102 provides the hopper with a complete list of qualifying items, at the time of the shopper's response.

Please delete the last partial paragraph on page 27 which continues to page 28 and replace it with the following paragraph:

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FIGURE 9 depicts an illustrative Deal Watch[SM] page 900 generated by the viewer

118. As in the case of the previous discussed GUI pages, the Deal Watch[SM] page 900

includes [a] the menu bar 602 for enabling shoppers to navigate between the available GUI

pages. The page 900 also includes keyword search fields 622 and 624, [a] the categories list

[628] 626, search limiting menus 628 and 630, and search initiating buttons 618 and 620.

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 28 and replace it with the following

paragraph:

The Deal Watch[SM] page 900 further includes [a] the Market Watch[SM] section 902.

The Market Watch[SM] section 902 displays a description of the search criteria to be used to

identify newly available items. The previous search criteria may have been entered by way

of browsing categories, entering a keyword search, or a combination of both. The Market

Watch[SM] section includes two buttons 904 and 906. The button 906 removes items from the

Market Watch[SM] list. The button 906 signals the monitor 114 to update the search

information with respect to an associated listed item.

Please delete the third full paragraph on page 28 and replace it with the following

paragraph:

The Deal Watch[SM] page 900 additionally includes [an] the Item Watch[SM] section 908.

The Item Watch[SM] section 908 lists in field 910 items that a shopper selects for monitoring.

The field 910 provides the name of the item being monitored, along with the auction site at

which the item is available and the pricing history for the item. The Item Watch[SM] section

908 includes a button 912 for signaling the monitor 114 to discontinue monitoring an

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associated item and to signal the viewer 118 to remove the item [form] from the Item

Watch^{SM} page 900.

Please delete the second full paragraph on page 29 and replace it with the following

paragraph:

FIGURE 10 depicts an illustrative Personalize page 1000 generated by the viewer

118. The Personalize page 1000 includes a Change Password section 1002, a Personal

Information section 1012, and a Time Zone Correction section 1028. The Change Password

Section 1002 has a field 1004 for entering a Login identification. Once a shopper enters a

Login identification, he or she can enter a new password in [the] a field 1006. The shopper

then repeats the new password in [the] a field 1008. The shopper actuates [the] a button

1010 to submit the updated information.

Please delete the third full paragraph on page 29 and replace it with the following

paragraph:

The Personal Information section 1012 enables a shopper to enter their first name in

[the] a field 1014 and their last name in [the] a field 1016. [The c]Check boxes 1018 and

1020 enable the shopper to request confirmation of the updated personal information by way

of either an email address entered in [the] a text box 1022, or an Internet messaging address

entered in [the] text box 1024. The shopper submits the personal information by actuating

(i.e., clicking) [the] button 1026.

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Please delete the fourth partial paragraph on page 29 which continues on page 30 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The Time Zone Specification section 1028 enables a shopper to select a time zone in which he or she is operating. [The] A pull-down selection box 1030 provides the available time zone selections. Actuating [the] button 1032 submits the shopper's time zone selection.

Please delete the third full paragraph on page 30 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 12 depicts an illustrative Sign In / Sign Out page 1200 generated by the viewer 118. Navigating to this page automatically logs the shopper out of the system 102. The page 1200 gives the shopper an opportunity to re-log into the system 102 by entering a member name in [the] field 1202, a password in [the] field 1204, and actuating [the] a submit button 1206.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the Abstract on page 45 and replace it with the following paragraph:

A network-based system is for aggregating information from a plurality of enterprises offering items for exchange over a network. In one embodiment, the system includes a host computer and a host database. The host computer is in communication with the enterprises over the network, and is adapted for [automatedly] automatically collecting and analyzing information about the items from enterprise databases associated with each of the enterprises. The host database is in communication with the host computer and is adapted for storing the information collected from the enterprise databases. The host computer is also adapted for

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providing a host graphical user interface through which a shopper can view, over the network, the information stored in the host database. According to one preferred embodiment, the plurality of enterprises includes auction sites offering items for purchase over the network.

MARKED UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

1.   A method for aggregating information from a plurality of enterprises offering items for exchange over a network, each enterprise maintaining a separate exchange, each enterprise having an enterprise database for storing information about items available through each separate exchange, and each enterprise enabling shoppers to interact directly with each separate exchange to obtain the information about the items, the method comprising:

[automatedly] automatically collecting and analyzing information about [said] the items from the enterprise databases associated with each of [said] the enterprises by use of a host [computer], the host being in communication with [said] the enterprises over [said] the network;

storing [said] the information collected from [said] the enterprise databases in a host database, the information being stored in the host database by the [in communication with said] host [computer];

providing a host graphical user interface through which [a shopper] the shoppers can view, over [said] the network, [said] the information stored in [said] the host database.

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5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein collecting information from enterprise databases includes collecting information from auction sites offering items for purchase over [said] the network[,] and [having associated] the enterprise databases comprise auction databases associated with the auction sites.

8.   The method according to claim 5, wherein collecting information [include] includes collecting publicly accessible information.

9.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

periodically collecting [said] the information about [said] the items from [said] the enterprise databases, and

updating [said] the information stored in [said] the host database.

10.   The method according to claim 9, wherein updating [said] the information stored in [said] the host database comprises updating [said] the information stored in [said] the host database with [sufficiently] sufficient frequency to enable [said shopper] the shoppers to monitor and participate effectively in bidding activity at [said] the auction sites.

11.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising[,]

dynamically scheduling [said] the collecting of information from [said] the auction databases based upon content of previously collected information.

12.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising[,]:

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enabling [said] the host [computer] to receive an auction watch request from [said]

shopper] the shoppers,

monitoring with [said] the host [computer] a bidding activity at a specified auction

site with regard to a specified item in response to [said] the received auction watch request,

and

displaying [said] the bidding activity to [said] the shopper by way of [said] the host

graphical user interface.

13.   The method according to claim 12, further comprising dynamically scheduling

[said] the collecting of information from [said] the auction databases based upon content of

previously collected information.

14.   The method according to claim 12, further comprising[,]:

enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper an

update request, and

updating at least a portion of [said] the information stored in [said] the host database

substantially in real-time in response to [said] the update requests.

15.   The method according to claim 12, further comprising[,]:

periodically collecting [said] the information about [said] the items from [said] the

enterprise databases, and

updating [said] the information stored in [said] the host database.

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16.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising[,]:

·enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper an update request, and

updating at least a portion of [said] the information stored in [said] the host database substantially in real-time in response to [said] the update requests.

17.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising[,]:

enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper an item watch request specifying a particular item for monitoring, and

monitoring [said] the auction sites to detect if [said] the specified item becomes available for bidding at [said] the auction sites in response to [said] the item watch request from [said] the shopper.

18.   The method according to claim 17, further comprising[,]

providing [said] the shopper with notification in response to detecting [said] the specified item becoming available for bidding, wherein [said] the host [computer] provides [said] the notification by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from [a] the host graphical user interface.

19.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising[,]:

enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper a market watch request specifying a class of items for monitoring, and

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detecting availability of items within [said] the class of items at [said] the auction sites.

20.   The method according to claim 19, further comprising distinguishing between newly detected ones of [said] the items from previously detected ones of [said] the items.

21.   The method according to claim 19, further comprising

providing [said] the shopper with notification regarding detection of [said] the items within [said] the class of items, wherein [said] the host [computer] provides [said] the notification by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from [a] the host graphical user interface.

22.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising providing [said] the shoppers with notification of host-based events by way of a host computer-initiated mechanism different from [a] the host graphical user interface.

23.   The method according to claim 22, wherein [said] the host computer-initiated mechanism includes a communication mechanism chosen from electronic mail, Internet messaging, pager, facsimile, telephone, and Web telephone.

24.   The method according to claim 22, wherein [said] the host computer-initiated mechanism includes providing a hyperlink to [said] the host graphical user interface.

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25.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising[,]:

enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper a

host database query specifying a class of items,

searching [said] the host database for items within [said] the class of items, and

displaying auction information with regard to [said] the items within [said] the class

of items to [said] the shopper by way of [said] the host graphical user interface.

26.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical

user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling

accepting from [a] the shopper an indication of specific keywords to restrict [said] the class

of items.

27.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical

user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling

accepting from [a] the shopper an indication of at least one category to restrict [said] the

class of items.

28.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical

user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling

accepting from [a] the shopper an indication of a combination of keywords and at least one

category to restrict [said] the class of items.

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29.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling accepting from [a] the shopper an indication of particular ones of [said] the auction sites to restrict [said] the class of items.

30.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling accepting from [a] the shopper an indication of a particular type of auction site in which [said] the shopper is interested to restrict [said] the class of items.

31.   The method according to claim 30, wherein [said] the particular type of auction site includes person-to-person auctions and business-to-person auctions.

32.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling [said] the host [computer] and [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [a] the shopper an indication of a time frame in which [said] the host [computer] detects that an item within [said] the class is available at one of [said] the auction sites.

33.   The method according to claim 25, wherein enabling [said] the host graphical user interface to accept from [said] the shopper [a] the host database query includes enabling accepting from [a] the shopper an indication of at least one of a specific price and a price range for [said] the class of items.

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34.   A method for aggregating auction information from a plurality of auction sites, comprising[,]:

interconnecting at least one host [server] site and [ones of said] the plurality of auction sites by a network[,];

providing [at least one] a host database in communication with [said] the host [server,];

scarching [said ones of said] the plurality of auction sites across [said] the network under the control of [said] the host [server,];

retrieving auction information from [said] the auction sites[,];

extracting data items from [said] the auction information, [said] the data items comprising information associated with items offered for purchase by [said] the auction sites[,]; and

storing [said] the data items within [said] the host database.

35.   The [system] method according to claim 34, wherein searching [said ones of said] the plurality of auction sites across [said] the network under the control of [said] the host [server] comprises searching [ones of said] the plurality of auction sites continuously on a periodic basis.

36.   The method of claim 35 further comprising updating [said] the host database with [said] the data items retrieved and extracted from [said] the auction information.

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37.   The [system] method of claim 34, wherein storing [said] the items within [said] the host database comprises sorting and arranging [said] the data items according to a hierarchy of product and service categories established by [said] the host [server].

38.   A method for searching for products or services offered for purchase by a plurality of auction sites, comprising:

interconnecting [at least one] a host [server] site and [ones of said] the plurality of auction sites by a network[,];

providing [at least one] a host database in communication with the host [server,];

searching [said ones of said] the plurality of auction sites across [said] the network under the control of [said] the host [server], by at least one of matching one or more keywords for [said] the products or services[,] and of matching [by] one or more of [said] the categories associated with [said] the products or services[, or both,];

retrieving auction information from [said] the auction sites[,];

extracting data items from [said] the auction information, [said] the data items comprising information corresponding to [said] the products or services offered for purchase by [said] the auction sites[,]; and

storing [said] the data items within [said] the host database.

39.   The method according to claim 38, wherein [said] the information corresponding to [said] the products or services comprises information chosen from one of a description of [said] the product or service description, name of auction site, and type of auction.

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40.   The [system] method according to claim 38, wherein storing [said] the data

items stored [with] within [said] the host database comprises storing [said] the data items

[with said] within the database according to categories established by [said] the host [server].

41.   The [system] method according to claim 40, wherein [said] the categories

established by [said] the host [server] are chosen from one of a product or service type and a

type of auction.

42.   The method according to claim 41, wherein [said] the categories established

by [said] the host [server] include a hierarchy of product and service type categories and

subcategories.

43.   The method according to claim 40 , wherein searching by one or more

keywords can be conducted within one or more of [said] the categories.

44.   The method according to claim 40, wherein [said] the search by categories can

be conducted within a subset of data items identified by a search by one or more keywords.

45.   A method for monitoring status of bids placed on one or more items at a

plurality of auction sites in communication with a network, comprising[,]:

        interconnecting [at least one] a host [server site] with [ones of said] the plurality of

auction sites by a network[,];

periodically gathering with [said] the host [server] current bid information from [said] the auction sites across [said] the network for items in which a shopper has expressed interest[,]; and

providing with [said] the host [server] to [said] the shopper with a current aggregated listing of [said] the items, and [said] the current bid information for [said] the items.

46.   The method according to claim 45, further comprising[,]:

enabling [said] the host [computer] to connect [said] the shopper to auction sites where [said] the shopper can place bids on [said] the items[,]; and

providing an indication of whether [said] the bids placed by [said] the shopper on [said] the items are winning or losing.

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